

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179560
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 179560

NODIS

FOR THE AMBASSADOR ONLY

FOL RPT LONDON 11179 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUL 14

QUOTE: S E C R E T LONDON 11179

NODIS

FROM PICKERING

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, PBOR, JO, EG, US, XF

SUBJECT: TALKS WITH HUSSEIN - MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 174090

SUMMARY: HUSSEIN NOTED THAT DAVID OWEN ON JULY 13
HAD NO EXPECTATION OF LONDON TALKS GOING FAR AND HAD
SAID THAT BEGIN IS GAINING GROUND IN ISRAELI DOMESTIC
POLITICAL ARENA. KING WAS UPSET BY OUR JUNE 21 MESSAGE
TO HIM WHICH HE SAID WAS PEREMPTORY AND ATTEMPTING TO
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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 179560

INSTRUCT HIM. HE DID NOT LIKE IT. I DID ALL I COULD
TO SET HIS CONCERNS AT REST, ALONG WITH FALLOUT FROM
RECENT BIN SHAKER VISIT THAT US PRESSING JORDAN TO JOIN
PEACE TALKS NOW I ORDER TO "SAVE SADAT". KING ALSO
PREOCCUPIED BY HIS FAILED REQUEST TO VISIT THE US AND
THIS NEEDS TO BE GIVEN SOME THOUGHT. TALK COVERED
LEBANON (BRIEFLY) AND KING'S HOPE TO WORK MORE CLOSELY

WITH SAUDIS ON YEMEN PROBLEM. END SUMMARY.

1. FAREWELL CALL ON HUSSEIN TOOK PLACE IN HIS LOND TN HOUSE AND PRECEDED LUNCH FOR MY WIFE AND ME WITH KING AND QUEEN NOOR.

2. BASIC SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION WERE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, LEBANON AND AREA (YEMEN IN PARTICULAR) DEVELOPMENTS.

3. PEACE PROCESS -- KING BRIEFED ME ON TALK WITH DAVID OWEN YESTEDAY. MAIN POINTS HE DREW WERE THAT OWEN CONCLUDED THAT LONDON MEETINGS WERE NOT GOING TO PRODUCE MUCH, BUT THAT SOME PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE AND MEETINGS WERE IMPORTANT FOR US. SECONDLY, KING WAS STRUCK BY OWEN'S STATEMENT THAT BEGIN IS GAINING GROUND ON ISRAELI DOMESTIC SCENE, NOT LOSING IT.

4. I USED OPPORTUNITY TO RUN OVER WITH KING SOME OF POINTS WHICH I HAD BEEN ASKED TO MAKE FOLLOWING GENERAL BIN SHAKER'S VISIT TO THE US IN JUNE. I WAS ABLE TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT OUR VIEWS ON MILITARY ISSUES WERE DEVELOPED ON MILITARY GROUNDS, NOT POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES. I ALSO INDICATED THAT WE WOULD TALK TO JORDAN, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, ABOUT JOINING THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED THAT HE CONTINUE TO REMAIN SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 179560

POSITIVE AND OPEN-MINDED ABOUT THE LONDON TALKS AND THAT WE INTENDED TO PROTECT JORDAN'S INTERESTS IN THE MATTER. KING SEEMED RELAXED ON THESE POINTS, BUT DID RAISE WITH ME QUESTION OF INSTRUCTIONS WHICH WE PASSED ON TO SHAKER ON JUNE 21.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE INDICATED STRONG CONCERN THAT WE WERE TREATING HIM PEREMPTORILY AND ATTEMPTING TO INSTRUCT HIM IN WHAT TO DO REGARDING ISSUES OF GREAT INTEREST TO HIM AND HIS COUNTRY. HE SAID IN EFFECT THAT DURING THE 1950'S WHEN HE WAS THE ONLY ONE SPEAKING OUT FOR THE US, THE WEST AND MODERATION IN THE ARAB WORLD, WE DID NOT TRY TO TELL HIM WHAT TO SAY. HE HAD NOTED THAT OUR SECOND SET OF REQUESTS TO HIM (PASSED TO HIM LAST WEEK IN LONDON), HAD NOT BEEN CAST IN THE SAME MOLD. I DID ALL THAT I COULD TO REASSURE HIM THAT WE CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT JORDAN REMAIN MODERATE AND SUPPORTIVE OF EGYPT'S PEACE EFFORTS. THE ARAB MODERATES IN PARTICULAR LOOKED TO HIM AND TO JORDAN. IF WE SET THE STAGE FOR STRIDENCY AND ATTACKS ON SADAT, OTHERS WOULD INEVITABLY FOLLOW. THIS WAS OF SOME CONCERN TO US. I APOLOGIZED FOR ANY NOTES OF DEMAND;

IF SUCH WERE THERE, THEY WERE THERE IN ERROR. OUR PRACTICE WAS TO KEEP HIM INFORMED AND TELL HIM WHAT WE WERE DOING. WE WOULD ALWAYS REQUEST HIS HELP, NOT DEMAND OR ORDER IT. COMMENT: KING SEEMS TO BE SMARTING A BIT ON THIS POINT, AS HE IS ALSO MORE IMPORTANTLY ON THE ISSUE OF A US VISIT. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERABLE THOUGHT WHEN ROY ATHERTON VISITS JORDAN AT THE END OF THE MONTH TO SPEAKING WITH HIM CLEARLY ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT IN THE AUTUMN AT WHICH POINT WE SHOULD BE READY EITHER TO SEEK TO PERSUADE HIM TO JOIN A PROCESS WHICH IS MOVING, OR ALTERNATIVELY, TO TALK OVER WITH HIM WHAT WE EXPECT TO DO NEXT. END COMMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 179560

6. ON SADAT AND CAIRO, HE ECHOED TO ME WHAT HASSAN HAD SAID EARLIER ABOUT THE NEED FOR CLOSER EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN COMMUNICATION. CLEARLY, HUSSEIN HAS NOT GOT WHAT SADAT HAS FROM BEGIN OR INDEED WHAT SADAT HAD BEFORE THE JERUSALEM VISIT -- AN INDICATION THAT THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE ON SINAI IS NEGOTIABLE. THEREFORE, HUSSEIN IS NOT NOW, OR UNTIL WEST BANK TERRITORY BECOMES NEGOTIABLE, LIKELY TO BE DRAWN IN WHATEVER SADAT MAY FEEL ABOUT HIS LACK OF COURAGE. HOWEVER, WHEN TIME DOES COME, SADAT AND WE WILL BOTH FIND IT EASIER TO PUSH HUSSEIN INTO WHAT WILL BE NEBULOUS SITUATION AT BEST, IF WE HAVE STAYED IN TOUCH AND KEPT HIM UP TO DATE. AT MOMENT HUSSEIN'S RELATIONS WITH SYRIA ARE SO BAD THAT EGYPTIANS ARE ALSO MISSING AN IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY. KING HAS RARELY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ASAD ALL YEAR.

7. ON LEBANON, I BRIEFED HUSSEIN ALONG LINES REFTTEL. HE WAS INTERESTED IN OUR EFFORTS TO SEEK SOLUTIONS AND CONTINUES TO BE WORRIED ABOUT A POSSIBLE CATASTROPHE.

8. HUSSEIN SAID HE HOPES TO REMAIN CLOSE TO HOME AFTER HIS RETURN TO AMMAN, ALTHOUGH HE HAS BEEN INVITED TO PEKING AND BONN LATER THIS YEAR. ONE EXCEPTION WOULD BE VISIT TO SAUDIS. HE BELIEVES THEY HAVE SUDDENLY REALIZED THE DANGERS IN YEMEN AND MIGHT AGREE TO BROADER COOPERATION IN CONTINGENCY PLANNING WITH JORDAN, SOMETHING FOR WHICH KING HAS ALWAYS HOPED. KING SAID THAT HE IS DISTURBED BY REPORTS WHICH HE HAS RECEIVED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES THAT KING KHALID IS ACTUALLY WORRIED BY POSSIBILITY OF A COUP AGAINST HIM BY CROWN PRINCE FAHIS. (SOURCE IS KHALID'S WIFE TO SULTAN QABOOS' MOTHER IN LONDON.)

SECRET

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PAGE 05 STATE 179560

9. KING RECEIVED IN LONDON IMELDA MARCOS WHO SEEMED PARTICULARLY DISTURBED BY WHAT SHE CALLED US IMMOBILISME AND INABILITY TO AGREE TO ASSIST ITS OLD FRIENDS AND ALLIES. KING TOLD ME HE THOUGHT WE WERE PAST THAT PHASE WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. KING SAID MRS. MARCOS WAS URGING CLOSER RELATIONS AMONG STATES LIKE THE PHILIPPINES AND JORDAN WHICH WERE IN THE "SAME POSITION" VIS-A-VIS THE US. SHE ALSO CAUTIONED AGAINST A VISIT TO PEKING BEFORE MOSCOW SAYING OTHERWISE THE SOVIETS GET MAD. KING NOTED SHE HAD FORGOTTEN HE WENT TO MOSCOW IN 1975.

10. KING ALSO SAID THAT DESPITE PRESS RUMORS TO CONTRARY HE HAD NOT SEEN ISRAELI LABOR PARTY LEADER PERES DURING LATTER'S CURRENT VISIT TO LONDON.

11. DEPARTMENT PLEASE REPEAT TO AMMAN. BREWSTER UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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